

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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R 280404Z JAN 76

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, NZ (RANDALL, WILLIAM J.)

SUBJECT: CODEL RANDALL MEETING WITH NEW ZEALAND OFFICIALS

ON JANUARY 14, 1976

1. IN ADDITION TO CODEL AND STAFF, MEETING INCLUDED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/FOREIGN MINISTER BRAIN TALBOYS, MINISTER OF DEFENSE ALLAN MCCREADY, CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF LT. GENERAL SIR RICHARD WEBB, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JOHN ROBERTSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE NORMAN FARRELL, AIR COMMODORE LARRY SEIGERT, FOREIGN SECRETARY FRANK CORNER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROD MILLER. THE GROUP WAS JOINED TOWARD THE END BY PRIME MINISTER MULDOON. EMBASSY WAS REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR SELDEN, DCM ANDREW KILLGORE, POLITICAL COUNSELOR BURNS AND CAPTAIN E. RUBEY, U.S. NAVAL ATTACHE.

2. MCCREADY SAID NEW ZEALAND WAS ONE OF ONLY TWO COUNTRIES (AUSTRALIA BEING THE OTHER) ASSOCIATED WITH U.S. IN FOUR MILITARY CONFLICTS, WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, KOREA AND VIETNAM. HE SAID ANZUS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SECURITY RELATIONSHIP NEW ZEALAND HAS.

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3. TALBOYS REVIEWED WHAT HE HAD SAID TO CODEL HOLLINGS/

GRIFFIN EARLIER IN THE DAY: NEW ZEALANDERS AND AMERICANS ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME KIND OF PEOPLE; DIFFERENCE IS IN CAPACITIES TO PERFORM, WHICH DEPENDS ON ECONOMIC STRENGTH. HE SAID HIS PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO BALANCE ON BACKS OF SHEEP AND CATTLE AND IT WAS A HARD JOB. EIGHTY TO EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT OF NEW ZEALAND'S OVERSEAS TRADE WAS AGRICULTURAL AND ITS FOREIGN TRADE CONSTITUTED 20 TO 24 PERCENT OF ITS GNP. BUT NEW ZEALAND AND THE UNITED STATES WERE FUNDAMENTALLY ON THE SAME SIDE, NO MATTER WHAT.

4. CONGRESSMAN RANDALL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR WARM WELCOME CODEL HAD RECEIVED. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S HONOLULU SPEECH AND SAID PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO PREPARE FOR CONGRESSIONAL "POSTURE HEARINGS": SOME OF THOSE TESTIFYING EARLIER BEFORE HIS COMMITTEE HAD SAID THAT THE USG COULD SAVE UP TO \$24 BILLION IN THE PACIFIC AREA.

5. CONGRESSMAN WILSON EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF U.S. PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AS LONG AS SOVIETS WERE BUILDING UP THEIR PRESENCE THERE. HE INDICATED DIEGO GARCIA IMPORTANT AS SUPPORT BASE. HE SAID CODEL WAS ANXIOUS TO LEARN ABOUT HE PROP UP ASEAN NATIONS, NOTING CODEL HAD JUST VISITED INDONESIA AS WELL AS AUSTRALIA. HE DOUBTED IF THE U.S. PUBLIC ATTITUDE TODAY IS ONE OF RETREAT AND CITED THE AMERICAN REACTION TO THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT; CONGRESS ALSO HAD STRONGLY REJECTED EFFORTS TO CUT BACK ON DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS. CONGRESSMAN NICHOLS OBSERVED THAT QUESTION OF DIEGO GARCIA WAS CERTAIN TO ARISE DURING THIS MEETING AND HE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE CODEL STRONGLY SUPPORTED THAT PROJECT.

6. CONGRESSMAN DICKINSON SAID HE WAS PLEASED WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S ANTI-COMMUNIST STAND AND THE REASSURING REMARKS MADE BY INDONESIAN INTELLIGENCE CHIEF; HE CONTRASTED THESE PRIVATE REMARKS WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS' RECENT STATEMENTS ABOUT U.S.PRESENCE, THE THAI POSITION REGARDING U.S. FORCES, AUSTRALIA'S STAND ON DIEGO GARCIA AND INDONESIA'S VOTE FOR THE RECENT GUAM RESOLUTION IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE UN. IN VIEW OF THE LATTER, THE STATEMENTS CODEL HAD BEEN GIVEN IN INDONESIA WERE PARTICULARLY REASSURING. CONGRESSMAN WILSON NOTED THAT SUHARTO HAD SPOKEN AT LENGTH ABOUT INSURGENCY AND SUBVERSION PROBLEMS. CONGRESSMAN SPENCE WAS ENCOURAGED BY ATTITUDES ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER EXPRESSED RECNETLY BY NATIONS OF THE AREA.

7. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TALBOYS SAID HE WANTED TO REPEAT

THAT THE U.S. WAS THE BULWARK OF THE FREE WORLD; THAT WAS WHAT NEW ZEALAND MEANT WHEN IT SAID THAT ANZUS WAS AT THE CENTER OF NEW ZEALAND'S THINKING. NEW ZEALAND SOUGHT TO BUILD UP INDONESIA AGAINST FORCES WHICH WOULD THROW DEMOCRACY OUT IF THEY HAD THE CHANCE. MCCREADY SAID NEW ZEALAND MUST MAKE A CREDIBLE CONTRIBUTION OT U.S. EFFORTS; NEW ZEALAND WOULD HAVE A DEFENSE POLICY THAT DOES THAT, NOT ONE THAT JUST GOES ALONG.

8. CONGRESSMAN HILLIS RECALLED THAT INDONESIANS HAD SPOKEN OF THEIR RESILIENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE; THIS WAS VERY REASSURING. HE SAID AMERICANS WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE CACHES OF ARMS LEFT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA FOLLOWING VIETNAM, AND WENT ON TO NOTE THAT WORLD COMMUNISM HAD NOT CHANGED ITS GOAL AS FAR AS U.S. IS CONCERNED. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF GUAM, MR. WN PAT, REMINDED THE GROUP THAT GUAM WAS THE MOST FAR FLUNG AMERICAN OUTPOST AND HE WAS THANKFUL NEW ZEALAND DID NOT VOET FOR THE RECENT UN RESOLUTION ON GUAM. HE ALSO OBSERVED WITH FEELING THAT GUAMANIAN ARE U.S. CITIZENS.

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9. REPRESENTATIVE SCHEUER ASKED ABOUT (1) NEW ZEALAND'S PERCEPTION OF COMMUNIST THREAT FROM ASIA; (2) NEW ZEALAND'S POSITION REGARDING DIEGO GARCIA; (3) DEGREE

OF THREAT TO INDONESIA AND (4) STATUS OF THE
SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEARWEAPONS-FREE ZONE.

10. DEFENSE MINISTRE MCCREADY RESPONDED THAT NEW
ZEALAND HAD LONG BEEN INVOLVED IN COUNTERING COMMUNIST
INSURGENCY (E.G. MALAYSIA) AND BELIEVED IT HAS A
ROLE TO PLAY IN HELPING GOVERNMENTS IN MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE
AND INDONESIA TO RESIST INSURGENCIES. REGARDING THE
SPNWFZ, NEW ZEALAND COULD NOT PLAY A PART IN ANZUS AND
ALSO PLAY A ROLE IN A SPNWFZ. REGARDING THE INDIAN OCEAN,
HE SAID THE UPSURGE IN SOVIET NAVAL OPERATIONS MADE HIM
SUPPORT A U.S. PRESENCE THERE. HE COMMENTED HE WAS NOT
UP TO DATE REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS IN TIMOR, BUT SAID
EVENTS THERE WERE COMMUNIST INSPIRED. ANGOLA, HE
OBSERVED, WAS OUT OF NEW ZEALAND'S SPHERE. REPRESENTATIVE
MILFORD ASKED ABOUT INDONESIA'S IMPORTANCE TO WHICH
MCCREADY RESPONDED THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT. NEW ZEALAND
ENJOYED CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE INDONESIANS.

11. ROBERTSON STATED NEW ZEALAND BELIEVED IN HELPING TO
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BUILD UP THE STABILITY OF SUCH GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THE
LIMITS OF ITS AVAILABLE RESOURCES. HE THOUGHT INDONESIA
DID SEEM TO OVER-EMPHASIZE THE COMMUNIST THREAT BUT FELT
THAT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE IN VIEW OF ITS PAST EXPERIENCE.

12. GENERAL WEBB SAID ONE MUST LOOK AT SOUTHEAST ASIA AS
A WHOLE; THE MAIN SHORT-TERM THREAT WAS POLITICAL
INSTABILITY DUE TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. NEW ZEALAND POLICY
VIS-A-VIS ASEAN AREA WAS TO INCREASE THEIR SELF-CONFIDENCE
AND REPLACE NEW ZEALAND'S MULTI-LATERAL TIES WITH
BILATERAL TIES. TO ASSIST THEM ECONOMICALLY WITH TRADE
AND AID, AND WITH THEIR INTERNAL SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAMS.

13. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON THEN ENTERED, BID THE CODEL A
WARM WELCOME, AND EXPLAINED THAT NEW ZEALAND REGARDS U.S.,
U.K. AND AUSTRALIA AS ITS CLOSEST FRIENDS; ALL HAVE
SIMILAR PEOPLES. HE EXPRESSED THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR
AMBASSADOR SELDEN, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL
PERSPICACITY. HE SAID NEW ZEALAND IS 100 PERCENT BEHIND
ANZUS, WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TREATY HIS
COUNTRY HAS. HE CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY OFFERING THE
"STRONGEST ASSURANCES OF CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP AND
COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES."

14. COMMENT: ATMOSPHERE OF FOREGOING MEETING WAS
EXTREMELY CORDIAL. ASIDE FROM REASSURING EXCHANGES ON
SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP VISITS
AND SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE. WARM

FEELINGS OF MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY THAT
WERE SO SINCERELY EXPRESSED CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALY
TO NEW ZEALAND/ AMERICAN RELATIONS.
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